

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OECD PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAM: COUNCIL

MEETING OF JULY 21, L978

REFS: (A) STATE 180243, (B) BONN 12950, (C) STATE
178223, (D) PARIS 22221, (E) PARIS 22624

1. SUMMARY. LAST COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE SUMMER RECESS
APPROVED DRAFT ENTRY AS GIVEN IN REF (E) WITHOUT MODI-
FICATION. TEN COUNTRIES AFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO PARTICI-
PATE IN PART II PROGRAM. TWELVE COUNTRIES AND EC EXPRES-
SED STRONG INTEREST AND AGREED WITH URGENCY OF PROGRAM,
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PROMISING DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN NEAR FUTURE.
FRG WILL PARTICIPATE BUT RESTATED ITS CONTRIBUTION AS
150,000DM, CONTRARY TO INFORMATION IN REF (B). MISSION
HAS HEARD INFORMALLY THAT SECGEN HAS SELECTED MCNEILL
OF CANADA AS NEW DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE.
END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SECGEN ELDIN OPENED DISCUSSION WITH CAREFULLY WROUGHT STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDED ALL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO U.S. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PART II PROGRAM COULD NOT BE FORMALLY APPROVED BEFORE SUMMER. IN A CONCISE STATEMENT OF AIMS, HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR COOPERATION TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND THE URGENCY OF SPEEDY ACTION TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS. STARTING WITH THE APRIL STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, HE REVIEWED THE GENESIS OF THE PART II PROGRAM THROUGH THE SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP, THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND THE JUNE 21-23 SPECIAL MEETING TO STRUCTURE THE PROGRAM.

ELDIN THEN BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE PART I PROGRAM AND THE SCALED-DOWN PART II PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVED AT THE JUNE MEETING. HE PRAISED THE JUNE MEETING FOR ITS SUCCESS IN DEFINING THE PROGRAM, CLARIFYING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN PART I AND PART II EFFORTS, AND CREATING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE SECRETARIAT WILL ISSUE PRECISE PROPOSALS FOR THE INFORMATION OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE STATUTES, PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND THE STATUS OF BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS. SECRETARIAT HAS CONSULTED WITH DELEGATIONS AND FINDS UNANIMITY ON STARTING WORK BY 1 OCTOBER 1978. THEREFORE, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER SUBJECT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR COUNCIL DECISION IN MID-SEPTEMBER. AFTER STRESSING NEED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM, HE INVITED

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COUNTRIES TO AFFIRM THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, WITHOUT MAKING BUDGET COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME.

3. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES MADE STRONG AND UNQUALIFIED AFFIRMATION OF INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE: SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, U.K., AUSTRALIA, CANADA, U.S., AUSTRIA, FRANCE, DENMARK AND GERMANY. MOST OF THEM PRAISED ELDIN'S STATEMENT, ECHOED THE SENSE OF URGENCY TO BEGIN WORK IN OCTOBER, EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, AND AGREED THAT OECD'S PART II STRUCTURE IS AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM TO DO THE JOB. SEVERAL COUNTRIES WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED BEFORE THE SUMMER. THE U.S. INTERVENTION GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE TALKING POINTS OF REF (C) SALZMAN

4. ALL THE OTHER STATEMENTS WERE POSITIVE IN TONE, EXPRESSING GREAT INTEREST IN THE PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAM BUT AN INABILITY TO CONFIRM INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME. MOST OF THEM PROMISED A DECISION BY THE END OF THE SUMMER. IN THIS CATEGORY WERE NETHERLANDS, JAPAN, ITALY, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, FINLAND,

NORWAY, PORTUGAL, NEW ZEALAND, GREECE, SPAIN, IRELAND, AND THE EC. THUS THE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION INCLUDES THE COUNTRIES LISTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, PLUS A NUMBER OF THE COUNTRIES LISTED ABOVE WHO WILL REPORT THEIR DECISIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT. ALTOGETHER, THERE WERE 23 STATEMENTS OF WHICH 10 COUNTRIES WERE FIRM ON PARTICIPATING AND 12 COUNTRIES AND THE EC TO DECIDE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. SEVERAL DELS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROGRAM COULD BE CONVERTED TO PART I LATER ON WITH ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING. OTHER COMMENTS RELATED TO THE NEED TO COORDINATE THE PART I AND PART II ACTIVITIES AND TO RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP.

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5. MR. ELDIN THEN PROMISED THAT THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY END JULY, WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL ESPECIALLY TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN THE PROCESS OF ARRIVING AT A DECISION. HE EXPLAINED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE BUDGET CALCULATIONS AND THE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS INVOLVED: CONVERSION OF CURRENCIES, ALLOWANCE FOR INFLATION, PLANNING FOR FIRST YEAR ONLY OR FOR 15 MONTHS (TO END OF 1979), ETC. HE THEN EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION WITH THE POSITIVE NATURE OF COUNTRY RESPONSES.

6. THE COUNCIL THEN APPROVED DRAFT ENTRY WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

7. GERMAN DEL REITERATED ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION OF 150.000DM. APPARENTLY INCREASE IN FRG CONTRIBUTION HAD NOT BEEN FULLY COORDINATED IN BONN. WE EXPECT SOME CLARIFICATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. MISSION COMMENT: WE CONSIDER THIS OUTCOME THE MOST FAVORABLE RESULT OBTAINABLE SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT APPROVAL OF PROGRAM. SINCE 12 COUNTRIES AND THE EC ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE, THE LATTER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE ARE, HOWEVER, CONCERNED ABOUT UNCERTAINTY IN FRG LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE BUDGET SITUATION. A NEGATIVE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTRY ATTITUDES AND LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS. NEVERTHELESS THE CURRENT MOOD IS POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC AND THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND BUDGET SHOULD BE LARGELY SETTLED BY SEPTEMBER.

SALZMAN

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